

ABSTRACT

When an optical fiber preform is manufactured using MCVD (Modified Chemical Vapor Deposition), dehydration gas supplied into a tube on which soot particles are deposited is preheated at 600 to 1200°C so that an internal temperature of the tube is kept over 500°C in order to improve efficiency of the dehydration process for removing hydroxyl groups. At this time, a preheater for preheating is installed near a front end of the tube where the dehydration gas is introduced, or installed at a predetermined position of a gas supply line, or installed on a gas path in a main pillow. In addition, the preheater is capable of controlling thermal capacity, and a heatproof plate is installed around the preheater.